The March 17th, 2022 meeting of the Solano Commission for Women and Girls (SCWG) was held in the Multipurpose Room (1600) on the first floor of Solano County Administration Center located at 675 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA 94533

**Call to Order and Roll Call:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:20PM. Pictures were taken. First in-person meeting in two years.

**Members Present:                         Executive Committee**

Mary Henderson Solano County, District 1

Ana Petero                          Solano County, District 2

Sullina Sanchez Solano County, District 3

Jennifer Hamilton  Solano County, District 4

Jacqui Nguyen Solano County, District 5                           Secretary

Gayle Vaughan City of Benicia

Pat Nicodemus City of Dixon                                              Treasurer

Rechelle Nettles  City of Fairfield

Tiffani Thomas City of Suisun                                            Co-Chair

Edith Thomas City of Vacaville                                         Chair

Sofia Cruz City of Vallejo
Andrea Lemos Solano County Office of Education           Membership

Wendy Loomas Member at Large

Sidonie Seltzer                     Youth Member at Large

Juliana Biggs Youth Member at Large

**Absent**:

Akon Walker                         Member at Large

Patty Kohn City of Rio Vista

**Guests:**

Jameelah Hanif

**Comments from the Public/Board Member:**

On March 8th Solano Board of Supervisors recognized March to be Solano Women’s History Month.

Commissioner Nettles, Commissioner Sanchez, and Chair Thomas attended the City of Fairfield City Council meeting and were presented with a Proclamation recognizing the Commission for Women’s History Month.

Commissioner Vaughan accepted a Proclamation from the Benicia City Council recognizing the Commission for Women and Girls as an essential part of Women’s History Month.

Commissioner Nicodemus attended the Dixon City Council Meeting and recognized their local citizen who would be honored later in the month by the Commission.

Commissioner Henderson wanted to reflect that she was unable to attend February’s SCWG due to technical difficulties.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Dr. Thomas moved to accept the agenda and Commissioner Hamilton seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

1. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

Commissioner Hamilton moved to accept the February minutes. Commissioner Petero seconded it, along with the changes suggested. Motion passed. Commissioners Henderson and Nguyen abstained due to absences in February 2022.

**Regular Calendar**

3. **Treasurer’s Report**: Commissioner Nicodemus provided a Treasurers Report update: $1,739.24 with an increase of $0.07.

4. **Brown Act**: Per the Brown Act, the Commission needs to post the monthly minutes and meeting agendas 72 hours before the meeting for the public. These are currently posted at the County building and Commissioner Hamilton has agreed to post the meeting agenda and minutes 72 hours prior to our meetings on the website.

5. **Updates on the Work Groups:**

**a. Violence Against Women Group**: Angel Shot program is in the works. Posters with a QR code will go up in drinking establishments and restaurant restrooms around the county. This project expects to go public for Memorial Day Weekend. Commissioners are invited to get involved to spread awareness. These venues were suggested as Pilot Program: Relic Tavern in Benicia, TJ’s in Vacaville, and the Marina Lounge in Benicia. The QR code will refer to a page on our website with details of the program. The County’s Alcohol and Violence Against Women has been invited to help spread awareness before Memorial Weekend.

Commissioner Vaughan noted that a group called SAFE which helps domestic violence and sex trafficking victims will merge with SANE and will receive a grant of $600,000 to support women of Vallejo.

**b. Birth Justice Event**: The virtual event is scheduled for May 7th from 10:00AM-1:00PM to honor Mother’s Day. The theme will be on Solutions. Many experts have committed to participate at the event. Doula, Davon Crawford has helped to connect with the experts and will donate a $500 grant to SCWG for the event. The next planning meeting is Monday, March 21st at 6:00PM via zoom.

**c. Women’s History Month Event:** The virtual event is scheduled for Saturday, March 26th via zoom. Fourteen women have been selected to be honored from Solano County. Commissioner Walker and Chair Thomas will emcee the event. Commissioner Hamilton is following up to ensure everyone is contacted and ready for the event. Commissioners who nominated honorees will give a brief introduction of their nominee. Commissioner Nguyen will alert the media. Commissioner Cruz is collecting raffle prizes.

d. **Poverty & Homeless Working Group**: Virtual work group meeting is Tuesday, March 22 5:30PM-6:30PM.

6. **SCWG Retreat:** Commissioner Vaughan has volunteered to coordinate a retreat, possibly Saturday, April 30th 10am-1pm Ideas for the agenda: Team building, wellness, discussion and presentation of bylaws/mission, and lunch. We discussed venues, but one was not chosen.

7. **CEDAW Discussion**: Chair Thomas requested a vote on whether SCWG would pursue asking Solano County Supervisors to adopt the standards of CEDAW. There was a robust discussion regarding how to proceed to get the BOS support. Chair Thomas made a motion that SCWG pursue the County’s adoption of CEDAW. Commissioner Nettles seconded the motion.

AYE Votes: Petero, Nettles, Dr. Thomas, Vaughan, Thomas, Hamilton, Henderson, Nicodemus, & Nguyen.

NO Votes: Biggs, Seltzer, Sanchez, Loomas.

CEDAW virtual meeting date: Friday, May 20th at 6:00PM.

8. **Funding opportunities:** Chair Thomas shared that Friends of SCWG were not awarded the grant from the State. However, there’s an opportunity for a much smaller grant through Valero. This could be a great help to sponsor the Birth Justice Event and the Angel Shot program. Commissioner Vaughan shared her concerns of a conflict of interest, being from Benicia. Chair Thomas will pursue the sponsorship. ( Didn’t we vote on this? Or was it an informal raising of hands?)

9. **Promote the VOTE**: Commissioner Nguyen opened the discussion regarding the upcoming voting dates. The push is to encourage Commissioners to be registered to vote and to Vote!

Lori Wilson is running unopposed to fill in Assembly District 11. Special election is April 5, 2022. Absentee ballots are being mailed. The Primary Election is on June 7, 2022.

**10. Agenda Items for April 21, 2022 Meeting:** We expect to hear from Carolyn Lahti, the new President of the American Medical Women’s Association- Touro Chapter, regarding potential collaborative projects this year.

**11. Closing Space:** Fairfield Chamber of Commerce has invited us to write an article for April’s Magazine – Voice of Business.

ADJOURN: Chair Thomas adjourned at 8:25PM.